5/25/70

Dear Harold,

I was enormously glad to get your very large mailing of yesterday. Frankly, I had begun to worry having not heard from you for some two weeks. This is not to insist that you write me every other day, or even to say that I would take offense if you didn't--of course not. But it was good to hear from you.

I sorted out all the letters, put them in chrono order and read them. Only got to read them once--had to go to Post Office to pick up certified package from GSA. I have those letters by me now and will make brief comment, owing to limited (but sufficient) time).

Handgun: Closeness is, of course, a possibility. Yet, what was close to JFK at 313 and still to his rear? I would hardly suggest any of the nearby concrete structures for a variety of reasons, notably the people there.

Specter: I was quite relieved to learn that you thought this "fine" for I was building up something in my mind which had me thinking the opposite--even though I felt I had done nothing wrong. The producer of the show (who is now a woman-forget name) was nice to me (she called me in response to the letter I sent Jack). She said a dub would cost $27.00. No dice. Perhaps Salandria was taping it. Any way, I got most of it and will soon be able to get copies for you and Dick. I know you do not own the spectro stuff, indeed I recently noticed that Sylvia goes into it in her book.

Fred: You do not have to warn me about Fred, and, certainly I indicated you my practice and desire of discussing no matters with him. Therefore, I will not accept your suggestion that I tell Fred what Sk really is and where he got his stuff. This could lead into all sorts of things which I am trying (for myself and for you) to avoid. I will ask Fred, though, where he got the CD 47 bit.

Glad you say that writing F under another name "sounds good." I will do this with, I think, more caution than I exercised with Morgan.

Will try stores for cheap copy of Sylvia's book. On LHO and cause of death, etc.--You seem to misunderstand. There is no doubt as is expounded in the autopsy report. LHO did not die from a gunshot wound but from hemorrhage secondary to that wound. This, as I documented in my memo, should be included in the Coup chapter to reinforce it. I found what I referred to in Sylvia's book. Check pages 247 to 248. One of the police with Oswald before Bieb got to him and after he was shot asked for a "death bed" confession which Oswald would not give. Perhaps this played a role in their "silencing" him. You and Dick are right though, that the problem is if Bieb's actions hastened or even caused death.

On your transactions with the Justice Dept and Tom Kelley, little comment other than good and onward! I could only read parts of the carbons, but enough to know what was going on, etc.

399: I would trace the "cut" for Dick if I knew what it was. Even when I was there, this was something I did not see. More on this later in the letter.

Have already written Wecht on chest and lung stuff but will not

bother him further. Will contact Fil pending resonse from Wecht.

A lot about the knoll depends on how far back from the wodden fence a man could have fired. This refers to the north knoll--the Elm St one. A man right up behind the fence did face a good chance of being seen.

Good luck on Sk. Did not know he had filed a second suit.

Your letter to Dick on Fred Cook and the men involved "peripherally" has me a little confused, though I do not invite a written response for something which we can liesurely discuss. I do not know of mpst of the men Dick mentions, although I notice Bradley is absent. Notice SK's allegation that Jim Braden is really Bradley.

On my panel letter, very gald to see you approve and like. Do accept and agree with you revisions and am very, very appreciative that you took such time and effort to go over it. I will do as you suggest in sending each carbons with original sent to Fisher by certified mail. I figure this would eliminate the classic cop-out that he didn't receive letter. What kind of response can they make to a letter to which silence is the worst and most incriminating (if you will) response? If they don't respond, then they are setting quite a record--indeed the admittance that their report disproves the WR, etc.

The Archives sent me a nice big package of goodies today, by certified mail (which I do not understand). I got my slides plus the two copies of Nichols' base photo and other things.

On the Nichols' picture, I enclose a copy. You indicated this to be for Dick since you would order your own. Your letter to Rhoads indicates you've gotten no reply on this so I'm sending the picture to Dick through you. Examine it and send it to Dick. It is almost a perfect duplication of yours so far as the base goes. Has there been alteration? I don't know.

Well, Harold, those great custodians of our irreplacable national relicks have informed me that they "do not have" one of the ballistics specimens introduced into evidence before the Commission and printed in the 26 volumes. This is the tiny fragments from the test skull, the ones shown in CE's 857 and 859. Another thing they don't tell me but which one of the slides leaves no doubt about is that one of the fragments removed from under the jump seat of the car is gone. It is in the WC photo but not in mine. I'll ask them about this.

The picture of the Connally fragments showed three, as I saw in Nichol's picture. Oh, I also got a picture of the "tiny" fragment which fell from 399. That "tiny" fragment is larger than the smallest one taken from JBC's wrist, slightly over one mm. It is almost key shaped.

The color slide of 399 base leaves no doubt of alteration. This slide (plus others) shows a light tan residue on the lead area in a few spots. It very strongly resembles the sand [illegible] of fine dirt which adheres to bullets that have ended their flight in the turf.

Also, Archives maintains they do not have Humes memo but will

let me check their files to satisfy myself.

I think there is a lot to bee seen in my color slides. I can have copies made although I would want to excercise caution in doing so since a) they were done almost exactly as I wanted them and b) the Archives did not realize the detailed requests I'd give them and would have to charge me much more for any other such stuff.

I do want to get prints from these. I don't have a slide projecter (look at them through a viewer). I can bring them to you the next time I'm there (soon, hopefully). Think you'd want to see these.

Really must get going.

Best,

Howard

cc Dick

P.S. - An article on your friend From the DJ is enclosed for you.